

Message Text

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TO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP; PFOR: NATO

SUBJ: NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING: OVERVIEW

1. THE FIFTY- FIRST NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD IN COPENHAGEN JUNE 14-15 REFLECTED A BROAD MEASURE OF ALLIED COHESION ON THE KEY ISSUES OF CSCE, MBFR, THE LINKAGE BETWEEN CSCE AND MBFR, AND THE US PROPOSAL FOR A REVIEW OF ATLANTIC RELATIONS. MINISTERS PARTICULARLY WELCOMED THE US STATEMENT OF ITS PLEDGE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE ITS SECRET

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FORCES IN EUROPE, PROVIDED THE ALLIES DO LIKEWISE, AND NOT TO REDUCE THEM IN THE ABSENCE OF RECIPROCAL REDUCTIONS BY THE OTHER SIDE. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SECRETARY' S BRIEFING ON THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF BREZHNEV TO

THE UNITED STATES.

2. CSCE. ALL REFLECTED SATISFACTION WITH THE RESULTS OF MPT , AND MANY NOTED THE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE PLAYED BY NEUTRAL AND NON- ALIGNED STATES. NONE ANTICIPATED THE SECOND (COMMISSION) PHASE TO BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER. MANY CALLED FOR FURTHER ALLIED EFFORTS OVER THE SUMMER TO REFINE ALLIED PORTIONS FOR USE IN THE SECOND PHASE. MOREOVER, IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT A DECISION ON THE LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION IN THE THIRD PHASE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN THE LIGHT OF PROGRESS IN THE SECOND PHASE. FINALLY, ALL AGREED THAT THE SECOND PHASE SHOULD NOT PROCEED UNDER ANY ARTIFICIAL TIME LIMITATION AND TO INFORM THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT OF THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF JULY 3 CSCE MINISTERIAL DATE.

3. MBFR. MINISTERS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED ON THE PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING ALLIED COHESION DURING NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT ALLIED SECURITY SHOULD REMAIN UNDIMINISHED, WITH NO CHANGE IN THE RELATIVE MILITARY BALANCE, AND WITHOUT

AFFECTING PRESENT NATO STRATEGY. ON THE KEY ISSUES OF FORCES TO BE REDUCED AND CONSTRAINTS, THERE WAS A SURGE OF SUPPORT FOR AN INITIAL REDUCTION IN US AND SOVIET FORCES, WITHIN A GENERAL FOCUSE ON STATIONED FORCES, WHILE LEAVING OPEN THE OPTION OF LATER REDUCING OTHER STATIONED AND INDIGENOUS FORCES. ONLY THE FRG PRESSED FOR A FORMULATION IN THE ALLIED GUIDELINES

PAPER FOR MBFR NEGOTIATIONS THAT WOULD ALLOW FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH STATIONED AND INDIGENOUS FORCES. MANY COULD ENVISAGE MIXED PACKAGE TRADES AS A FOLLOW- ON. ON THE EXTENT OF THE CONSTRAINTS AREA, THERE WAS LITTLE FORWARD MOVEMENT, WITH MANY CONTINUING TO SUPPORT EXTENDING CONSTRAINTS TO HUNGARY AND BEYOND. THE US POSITION ON CONSTRAINTS WAS CLEARLY RECORDED, HOWEVER, AND WILL SERVE AS A FOCUS FOR LATER DISCUSSION. MOREOVER, THE ALLIES ARE EXPLICITLY ON NOTICE THAT THE US SEEKS CONCRETE ALLIED PROPOSALS AS A BASIS FOR WORKING TOWARD
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AGREEMENT ON THE ALLIED APPROACH TO MBFR.

4. CSCE- MBFR LINKAGE. DESPITE EARLIER CONCERNS THAT THE NETHERLANDS, CANADA, AND , TO A LESSER DEGREE, BELGIUM WOULD INSIST ON TYING THE OPENING DATE FOR CSCE TO SOVIET AGREEMENT TO BEGIN MBFR NEGOTIATIONS BY OCTOBER 30,

THE US APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE WAS ACCEPTED. THE ALLIES AGREED, AFTER SOME DEBATE, THAT THE TWO SETS OF TALKS SHOULD MOVE AHEAD IN PARALLEL, BUT NOT BE EXPLICITLY LINKED. THUS, THE COMMUNIQUE PLACED THE ONUS CLEARLY ON THE SOVIETS TO ACCEPT THE OCTOBER 30 DATE, AS THE ALLIES UPHELD THEIR PART OF THE BARGAIN BY AGREEING

TO BEGIN CSCE JULY 3, ON SCHEDULE.

5. ATLANTIC RELATIONS. FOLLOWING A TOUGH STATEMENT BY FRENCH FONMIN JOBERT TAKING ISSUE WITH THE US POSITION ON A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, AND AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF GENERAL SUPPORT BY OTHERS FOR CURRENT US OBJECTIVES, AND THE DESIRE OF SOME THAT NATO PREPARE A DRAFT, BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND FRENCH DELEGATIONS RESULTED IN A COMPROMISE COMMUNIQUE TEXT LATER ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL WITH ONLY MINOR MODIFICATION. IT TOOK ACCOUNT OF CHANGING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND MINISTERS AGREED TO "EXAMINE IN A SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY AND BY A COMMON EFFORT THEIR RELATIONSHIPS IN THE LIGHT OF THESE CHANGES". THUS, THE STAGE IS SET FOR LATER DISCUSSIONS BY THE US WITH ITS ALLIES ON NEXT STEPS IN DEVELOPING OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES.

6. ICELAND. AFTER THE ICELANDIC AND UK MINISTERS OUTLINED THEIR POSITIONS, A ROUND OF MINISTERIAL INTERVENTIONS COUNSELED AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE FISHERY DISPUTE. THE SECRETARY LED IN URGING THAT A CLEAR DISTINCTION BE MADE BETWEEN THE BASE ISSUE AND THE FISHING PROBLEM.

7. SALT. SEVERAL MINISTERS INDICATED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE CONSULTATIONS TO DATE BY THE US WITH THE ALLIES ON SALT, AND FRG FONMIN SCHEEL URGED THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS INTENSIFY IN SUBSTANCE AND SPECIFICITY SINCE ALLIED INTERESTS INCREASINGLY ARE INVOLVED IN SUCH
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ISSUES AS NON-CIRCUMVENTION.

8. BURDEN SHARING. THE SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO BURDEN SHARING EVOKED RESPONSES FROM SEVERAL, WITH THE NETHERLANDS, REFERRING PARTICULARLY TO THE DESIRABILITY FURTHER ALLIED CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE. THE COMMUNIQUE FORMULATION REFLECTED CONSENSUS LOOKING TOWARD CONSULTATIONS ON WAYS TO ALLEVIATE THIS PROBLEM THAT SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN FURTHER DEBATE BY PERMREPS.

9. "UNDEMOCRATIC REGIMES". DESPITE EARLIER CONCERNS THAT THE ISSUE OF DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND PORTUGAL WOULD PROVE A TOPIC OF DIVISIVE DEBATE, THERE APPEARED TO BE AN UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE BENELUX COUNTRIES, IF NOT THE EC NINE, THAT THEY WOULD MENTION IN LOW KEY NEED TO UPHOLD DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS AS OUTLINED IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY. THEIR COMMENTS IN THIS SENSE DID NOT PROVOKE FURTHER DEBATE.

10. MEDITERRANEAN. THE FLANK COUNTRIES, AS EXPECTED, REFERRED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING ALLIED

STRENGTH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

11. CNADS. PERMREPS WERE INSTRUCTED TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO FOLLOW- UP ON THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTOR ON STEPS TO IMPROVE ARMAMENTS COOPERATION.

12. ATMOSPHERE: THIS NAC MEETING WAS CHARACTERIZED BY CONCENTRATION ON ISSUES, VERY WIDE SUPPORT FOR US PROPOSALS FOR REVIEW OF TRANS- ATLANTIC RELATIONS, AND A SPIRIT OF ENTERING A NEW ERA OF RELATIONSHIPS TO ENHANCE ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY. THE RESULTING COMMUNIQUE MET US OBJECTIVES AND LAYS THE GROUNDWORK FOR MEANINGFUL WORK ON THE " YEAR OF EUROPE".
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